AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. (Previously Presented) A region of a gene construct encoding an antibody-based fusion protein, the region including:
at its 5' end, nucleotides encoding at least a portion of an IgG1 or an IgG3 CH2 domain, with a mutation or a deletion reducing binding affinity for an Fc receptor, wherein said portion comprises a domain required for immunoglobulin protection receptor (FcRp) binding affinity, and
at its 3' end, nucleotides encoding a non-Ig protein.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) The region of claim 1, wherein said nucleotides encoding the portion of an IgG1 CH2 domain encode a mutation or a deletion at one or more amino acids selected from the group consisting of Leu_{234}, Leu_{235}, Gly_{236}, Gly_{237}, and Asn_{297}[[,]] .

4. (Currently Amended) An antibody-based fusion protein for administration to a mammal, said fusion protein comprising at least a portion of a CH2 domain, wherein said portion comprises a domain required for immunoglobulin protection receptor (FcRp) binding affinity, linked to a non-Ig protein, wherein said CH2 domain is an IgG3 CH2 domain comprising a mutation or a deletion that reduces binding affinity for an Fc receptor, and said antibody-based fusion protein has a longer circulating half-life *in vivo* than said antibody-based fusion protein without said mutation or deletion, wherein said portion of heavy chain comprises at least a portion of an IgG3 constant region, wherein the portion of the IgG3 constant region comprises ~~having~~ a mutation or a deletion at one or more amino acids selected from the group consisting of Leu_{281}, Leu_{282}, Gly_{283}, Gly_{284}, Asn_{344}, and Pro_{378}.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Previously Presented) The region of claim 1, wherein said Fc receptor is selected from the group consisting of FcγRI, FcγRII and FcγRIII.

7. (Previously Presented) The region of claim 1, wherein said non-Ig protein is a cytokine.

8. (Previously Presented) The region of claim 7 wherein said cytokine is an interleukin.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Previously Presented) The region of claim 8, wherein said interleukin is interleukin-2.

11-26. (Canceled)

27. (Previously Presented) An antibody-based fusion protein for administration to a mammal, the fusion protein comprising a variable domain and a portion of an IgG4 CH2 domain, the C-terminus of which is linked to the N-terminus of a non-Ig protein, wherein said antibody-based fusion protein has a longer circulating half-life *in vivo* than an antibody-based fusion protein comprising a portion of an IgG1 CH2 domain linked to said non-Ig protein.

28. (Canceled)

29. (Previously Presented) The region of claim 1, wherein the region is fused at its 5' end to nucleotides encoding an immunoglobulin hinge region.

30. (Previously Presented) The region of claim 1, wherein the region includes nucleotides encoding, in a 5' to 3' orientation, the at least a portion of an IgG1 or an IgG3 CH2 domain and at least a portion of a CH3 domain.